

**WE CLAIM:**

1  
2  
3 1. An organic light emitting device comprising:  
4 a first electrode;  
5 a second electrode; and  
6 a luminescent region including an organic electroluminescent material between  
7 the first electrode and the second electrode, wherein one of the first electrode and the  
8 second electrode includes both a substantially transparent charge injecting layer  
9 adjacent to the luminescent region and an electrically conductive light absorbing layer.

10  
11 2. The device of claim 1, further comprising a substrate, wherein one of the  
12 first electrode and the second electrode is between the substrate and the luminescent  
13 region.

14  
15 3. The device of claim 1, wherein the charge injecting layer has a thickness  
16 ranging from about 10 Angstroms to about 50,000 Angstroms.

17  
18 4. The device of claim 1, wherein the light absorbing layer is deposited by  
19 thermal evaporation in vacuum.

20  
21 5. The device of claim 1, wherein the light absorbing layer exhibits at least  
22 about 50% extinction of light entering the light absorbing layer.

23  
24 6. The device of claim 1, wherein the light absorbing layer exhibits at least  
25 about 90% extinction of light entering the light absorbing layer.

26  
27 7. An organic light emitting device comprising in sequence:

28 (a) a cathode including:

29 (i) an electrically conductive light absorbing layer, and

30 (ii) a substantially transparent electron injecting layer;

31 (b) a luminescent region including an organic electroluminescent material; and

32 (c) an anode that is substantially transparent to light.

33  
34 8. The device of claim 7, further comprising a substantially transparent  
35 substrate, wherein the anode is between the luminescent region and the substrate.

1  
2 9. The device of claim 7, further comprising a substrate, wherein the cathode is  
3 between the luminescent region and the substrate.  
4

5 10. The device of claim 7, wherein the cathode further comprises a metallic  
6 layer, wherein the light absorbing layer is between the metallic layer and the electron  
7 injecting layer.  
8

9 11. The device of claim 7, wherein the cathode further comprises a buffer layer  
10 between the light absorbing layer and the electron injecting layer.  
11

12 12. The device of claim 7, wherein the electron injecting layer has a thickness  
13 ranging from about 10 Angstroms to about 50,000 Angstroms.  
14

15 13. The device of claim 7 wherein the light absorbing layer is deposited by  
16 thermal evaporation in vacuum.  
17

18 14. The device of claim 7, wherein the light absorbing layer exhibits at least  
19 about 50% extinction of light entering the light absorbing layer.  
20

21 15. The device of claim 7, wherein the light absorbing layer exhibits at least  
22 about 90% extinction of light entering the light absorbing layer.  
23

24 16. An organic light emitting device comprising in sequence:

25 (a) a cathode that is substantially transparent to light;

26 (b) a luminescent region including an organic electroluminescent material; and

27 (c) an anode including:

28 (i) a substantially transparent hole injecting layer, and

29 (ii) an electrically conductive light absorbing layer.